

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 /115 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ARMY BUSHMASTER PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 0239

1. INFO IN REF CORRECT RE ARMY REJECTION OF 3 BUSHMASTER CANDIDATE WEAPONS. REJECTION WAS BASED UPON FAILURE OF WEAPONS TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OVER IMPROVED 20MM M-139 AS WELL AS FAILURE OF WEAPONS TO MEET ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES IN FIRING TESTS. DEFICIENCIES INCLUDED RELIABILITY, DURABILITY, SAFETY AND EXCESSIVE SIZE. ARMY IS REEVALUATING BUSHMASTER REQUIREMENTS AND MIGHT ACCEPT INTERIM SYSTEM TO BE FOLLOWED IN SEVERAL YEARS BY WEAPON/AMMO SYSTEM EMPLOYING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

2. NOFORN. THE IMPROVED VERSION OF HISPANO SUIZA M-139 GUN OR FRG COUNTERPART, RH-202, ARE GOOD INTERIM CANDIDATE DESIGNS SINCE U.S. HAS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY FOR TRAINING

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PRACTICE AMMO AND SEVERAL THOUSAND WEAPONS ARE IN NATO

INVENTORIES IN ADDITION TO 2000 M-139 GUNS NOW IN U.S.
INVENTORY. THE OERLIKON AMMO EMPLOYS TECHNOLOGY 10 TO 15
YEARS OLD AND WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL REDESIGN TO
MEET SAFETY, PENETRATION AND COST REQUIREMENTS. END NOFORN

3. RE PARA. 2 OF REF, DEP SEC DEF HAS DIRECTED THAT NEW

GUN DESIGNS IN THE CALIBER RANGES OF 20MM TO 40MM
SHOULD BE IN 5MM STEPS. THIS PRECLUDES USE OF G.E.
27MM IN BUSHMASTER OR 27MM MAUSER DESIGN IN U.S.
INVENTORY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Event:
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